

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing polyether alcohols comprising reacting saturated alkylene oxides with at least one saturated OH compound, or an alkylene oxide that has previously been oligomerized or polymerized with the saturated OH compound, in the presence of a double metal cyanide (DMC) catalyst, wherein an antioxidant is added before ~~or during~~ the reaction, using more antioxidant than DMC catalyst (based on the mass of DMC catalyst used), wherein the amount of antioxidant is from 2 to 500 times the mass of catalyst used.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is used in a total amount that is at least 1.5 times the mass of DMC catalyst used.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of sterically hindered phenols, N,N-disubstituted hydroxylamines, sterically hindered secondary cyclic amines, diarylamines, organic phosphonic acid derivatives, N,N-substituted hydrazine compounds, oxamide compounds, benzofurans and lactones.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is used in a concentration of from 7 to 4000 ppm, based on the mass of polyether alcohol to be prepared.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is added immediately before one of the following process steps (a) to (g): (a)

addition of the OH compound, (b) addition of the DMC catalyst, (c) milling of the DMC catalyst, (d) removal of suspension media, (e) removal of water, (f) addition of alkylene oxide, and (g) reaction of alkylene oxide with OH compound.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of double metal cyanide catalyst is from 5 to 1000 ppm, based on the mass of the polyether alcohol to be prepared.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein polyether alcohols having a hydroxyl number of from 10 to 350 mg KOH/g are obtained.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein polyether alcohols having an OH functionality of from 1 to 8 are obtained.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A polyether alcohol prepared by a process according to claim 1, having an OH functionality of from 1 to 8, a hydroxyl number of ~~preferably~~ from 30 to 300 mg KOH/g, and a DMC catalyst concentration of ~~preferably~~ from 10 to 1000 ppm and further comprising an antioxidant in an amount that is at least 1.5 times the mass of the DMC catalyst.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A process for producing polyurethanes, comprising the following steps:

- A) preparing polyether alcohols by a process according to claim 1, and
- B) reacting the polyether alcohols from step A) with isocyanates and/or polyisocyanates to form polyurethanes.